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West Desert Basin

DEMOGRAPHICS AND ECONOMIC FUTURE

4.1 INTRODUCTION

While much of the state was settled as destination communities during the early settlement of Utah, much of the West Desert Basin was considered undesirable. The Donner Party left wagon tracks through the area as they journeyed toward the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Bones, wagon parts and grave sites marked the passage of dreamers through the mud holes, salt flats, and other desert obstacles. This desert is less inhospitable in today's technological society.

Much of the terrain throughout the basin is either too rugged, too dry or too saline to attract large numbers of settlers or entrepreneurs. Aside from the Tooele Valley, which has in the past decade experienced significant growth, and is expected to continue growing, it is unlikely the basin will see large population increases in the foreseeable future.



Garrison, Utah

4.2 POPULATION

Although the basin is comprised of parts of six counties, only four of these counties have residents within the basin boundaries. The portions of Beaver and Iron counties within the

basin do not have any residents. In 1996, just under 32,000 people were permanent residents in the basin.

That number is expected to increase to 38,500 by the year 2000, and to about 68,200 by 2020. This is an increase of almost 36,500 people or roughly 115 percent over the 24 year period. The annual rate of population growth is approximately 2.8 percent. As shown in Table 4-1, the small part of Utah located in the Columbia River Basin was home to 50 people in 1996 and is expected to grow to about 63 in 2020. The portion of Box Elder County situated in this basin was inhabited by 1,170 people in 1996, while at the same time Tooele County was home to 30,100. The basin's population for these two counties is expected to increase to 1,660 and 65,850 respectively by 2020. Juab and Millard counties had 275 and 165 people respectively in 1996 and should increase to 430

The West Desert Basin is one of the most sparsely populated areas; not only of Utah but of the Intermountain West. Tooele City, with 20,300 people, is the largest city in the entire basin. Grantsville is the second most populous community with 5,900. This section discusses the population, employment and economic future of the West Desert Basin.

Table 4-1 POPULATION PROJECTIONS West Desert Basin			
Cities/Towns	1996	2000	2020
Box Elder County ²			
Columbia River Basin			
Clear Creek, Lynn, Standrod, & Yost	50	53	63
Great Salt Lake Desert Basin ²			
Blue Creek	10	11	13
Howell	260	270	440
Hansel Valley	20	21	25
Grouse Creek / Etna	100	105	127
Park Valley / Rosette	160	168	203
Promontory	100	105	127
Snowville*	270	277	407
Other unincorporated areas	200	210	255
Box Elder County Total	1,170	1,220	1,660
Tooele County			
<u>Incorporated Cities and Towns</u> ¹			
Grantsville*	5,200	5,935	9,373
Ophir*	30	38	67
Rush Valley*	367	472	625
Stockton*	467	606	775
Tooele*	14,996	20,267	33,690
Vernon*	200	239	482
Wendover*	1,190	1,293	1,688
Total for Incorporated Cities and Towns	22,450	28,850	46,700
<u>Unincorporated Areas</u> ²			
Dugway	1,530	1,530	1,700
Erda ³	2,140	2,250	2,920
Gold Hill	10	11	13
Ibapah	60	63	95
Lincoln ³	280	295	480
Lake Point	310	326	785
Stansbury Park ³	3,000	3,158	6,790
Terra	110	116	235
Skull Valley Indian Reservation	60	63	75
Other Unincorporated Areas	150	158	6,057
Total for Unincorporated Areas	7,650	7,970	19,150
Tooele County Total ¹	30,100	36,820	65,850
Juab County			
Callao	50	55	78
Fish Springs	5	10	12
Goshute Indian Reservation	110	120	174
Partoun	100	104	150
Trout Creek	10	11	16
Juab County Total ²	275	300	430
Millard County			
Eskdale	85	95	137
Garrison	50	53	64
Robinson's Ranch	30	32	39
Millard County Total ²	165	180	240
Basin Totals	31,710	38,520	68,180
* Incorporated Towns			
Source: 1) Demographic and Economic Analysis, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, August 1995			
2) County Estimate			
3) Estimate based upon existing water use data. 2020 population projections for Erda and Lincoln are limited by existing water supplies.			

and 240. See Figures 4-1a and 4-1b for a graphic perspective of population changes in the four basin counties. Portions of Beaver and Iron counties lie in the basin but no people reside in these areas.

4.3 EMPLOYMENT

The basin's employment base is centered in Tooele Valley and the salt, mineral and brine related industries located near the Great Salt Lake. Agriculture in Tooele County is expected to lose jobs gradually, while mining jobs will increase slowly. Construction, manufacturing, TCPU (transportation - communication and public utilities) and governments jobs will all increase between 30 percent and 60 percent by the year 2020. High growth sectors for the same period of time are trade (78 percent), FIRE (finance, insurance and real estate) (73 percent), services (106 percent), and non-farm proprietors (91 percent). Lake related jobs total 1,325, mostly in salt, mineral and brine shrimp production. Table 4-2 and Figure 4-2 show the dramatic drop in government jobs in Tooele County associated with federal defense employment cutbacks in the early 1990s. Non-farm proprietors, services, and trade are also shown in Figure 4-2.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget's employment projections are by county. Consequently it is not meaningful to show Box Elder, Millard, or Juab counties' employment projections since the vast majority of residents in these counties reside outside the West Desert Basin.

4.4 ECONOMIC FUTURE

Economic projections are made using the Utah Process for Economic and Demographics (UPED) projection model taking into account a number of variables assessing the demographic and industrial mix of an area's overall economy. The model incorporates historic employment growth rates into future growth patterns along with assumptions regarding labor force survival rates. The transient and part-time population occupying the relatively small number of hotel rooms and condominiums at regional recreation and tourist areas are not accounted for in the UPED model. As in most areas of the state, service and trade sectors will be the leading sources of jobs with government employment growing at about the rate of population increases. Industries located on the Great Salt Lake are expected to continue providing employment to Wasatch Front and basin residents.



Stansbury Park, Tooele County

Figure 4-1a
POPULATION PROJECTIONS

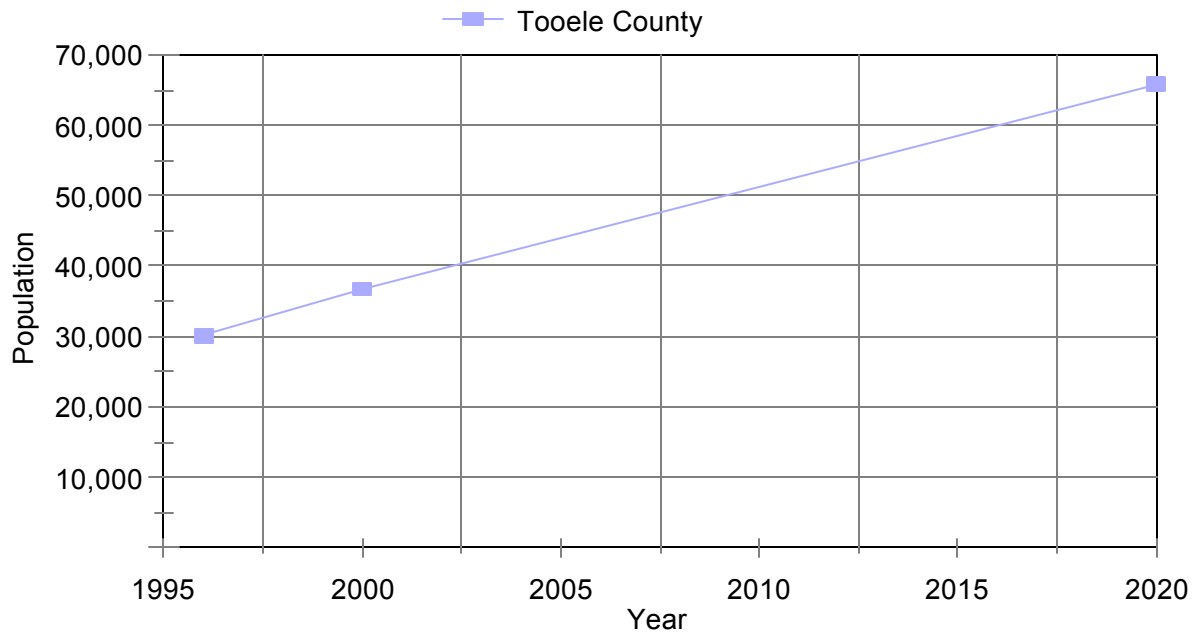


Figure 4-1b
POPULATION PROJECTIONS

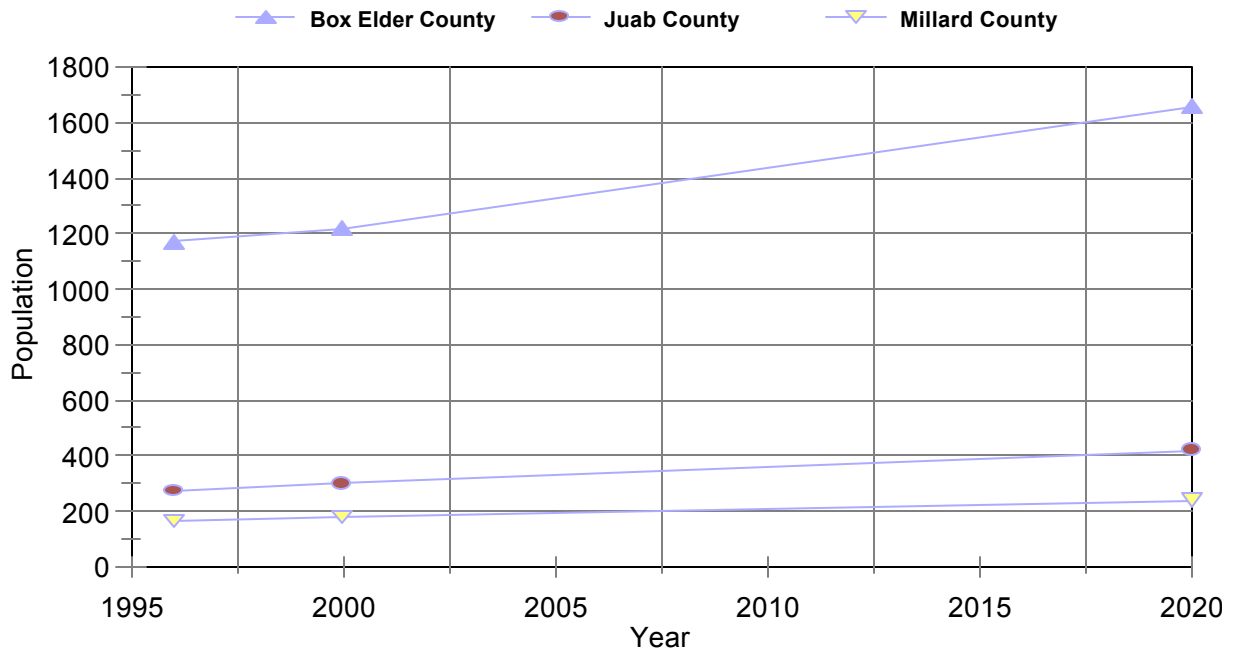


Table 4-2 EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS (Tooele County)					
Sector	1990	1997	2000	2020	% Change (1997-2020)
Agriculture	372	380	377	328	-13.68
Mining	229	219	225	250	14.16
Construction	391	709	750	1,122	58.25
Manufacturing	1,008	1,420	1,671	1,897	33.59
TCPU ¹	256	2,087	2,223	3,098	48.44
Trade	1,335	1,850	2,074	3,288	77.73
FIRE ²	134	220	251	380	72.73
Services	1,265	1,737	2,016	3,584	106.33
Government	5,939	3,115	3,226	4,251	36.47
Non-Farm Proprietors	1,505	2,163	2,443	4,132	91.03
County Total	12,434	13,900	15,256	22,330	60.65
1. Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities					
2. Finance, Insurance and Real Estate.					

Figure 4-2
EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS (Tooele County)

